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attempts)

What Not to Do

by Anthony Lewis

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That leads to another thought, a personal one, deeply felt. It is that the Ford episodes show the futility - worse, the damage - of the endless effort to show that the assassination of President Kennedy and of Robert Kennedy were the work of conspiracies.

From what we know of Lynette Alice Fromme and Sara Jane Moore, they are the classic alienated figures of our society - troubled individuals working out their resentments or fears. But if Gerald Ford had indeed been murdered, very likely Mark Lane would be talking about a grassy knoll or Allard Lowenstein about multiple guns.

The search for conspiracy only increases the elements of morbidity and paranoia and fantasy in this country. It romanticizes crimes that are terrible because of their lack of purpose. It obscures our necessary understanding, all of us, that in this life there is often tragedy without reason.